

# LAKE BELT MITIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE

## Model Lands Meeting Summary

South Florida Water Management District

Homestead Field Station

October 15, 2004 - 9:00 a.m.

### 1. Call to Order

#### a) Attendees

##### 1. Committee Members

- a. Veronica Fasselt, USEPA
- b. Matt Davis, Alternate, DERM
- c. Jeff Rosenfeld, Alternate, MF&L (Non-voting)

##### 2. Other meeting attendees

- a. Beth McArdle, SFWMD
- b. Jason Smith, SFWMD
- c. Ed Cronyn, SFWMD
- d. Alan Whitehouse, DEP
- e. Tracy Hurst, USACE
- f. Robert Lin, USEPA
- g. Gwen Burzycki, DERM
- h. Stephanie Voris, Goldasich & Associates, Inc.

2. Introduction - Matt Davis of Miami-Dade DERM provided background information on the Model Lands area. DERM is currently obtaining new appraisals in the area, and anticipates higher valuations which may result in additional willing sellers. SFWMD has received a grant from the SAMP Committee to proceed with a restoration project in the western portion of the Model Lands. Discussion followed on how best the Lake Belt Trust Fund could support DERM's acquisition and SFWMD's restoration activities. DERM and SFWMD will bring acquisition and restoration cost estimates to the Subcommittee, as they are developed. **Action Item #1.**

3. The purpose of the field trip was to evaluate areas in the South Dade wetlands forested fringe area within the Model Lands using the UMAM and WRAP methods to determine how much lift would be available from acquisition/restoration activities in this area. DERM provided a draft map of the forested fringe area, which identified the degree of exotic infestation (low, medium, high) which was present in different portions of the area. This initial field trip would look at 2 areas with high amounts of exotic infestation. The first stop was in an area completely invaded with Brazilian Pepper and Artesia and the second stop in a similarly invaded area where restoration activities (herbicide/mulching) had occurred.

Both sites were located south of Ingraham Highway, with the first stop located just west of the SFWMD C-111 Canal and the second stop located just east of Aerojet Road. The DERM draft wetlands forested fringe map, a location map for the two sites, field notes, and UMAM and WRAP scoresheets are attached.

4. The meeting was adjourned and it was determined that additional meetings would be necessary to evaluate other areas within the forested fringe area, how land preservation could be included in the calculations, and the proportion of lift provided through acquisition vs. restoration activities, as well as to develop a recommendation to the full Lake Belt Committee on how best to approach acquisition/restoration activities in the Model Lands area.

## 5. ACTION ITEMS

**Action Item #1** – DERM and SFWMD will bring acquisition and restoration cost estimates to the Subcommittee, as they are developed.